**UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA‑NORMAN CAMPUS**

**PROCEDURE FOR RESCISSION OF GRADUATE FACULTY STATUS**

“As teachers, faculty members encourage the free pursuit of learning in their students. They hold before them the best scholarly and ethical standards of their discipline. Faculty members demonstrate respect for students as individuals and adhere to their proper roles as intellectual guides and counselors. Faculty members make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct and to ensure that their evaluations of students reflect each student’s true merit. They respect the confidential nature of the relationship between faculty member and student. They avoid any exploitation, harassment, or discriminatory treatment of students. They acknowledge significant academic or scholarly assistance from them. They protect their academic freedom.” (Faculty Handbook, 3.2.2 Academic Responsibility).

Graduate faculty members have an academic responsibility to remain current in their discipline. When supervising original work by graduate students, Graduate Faculty must also be active in scholarship or creative activity appropriate for that discipline.

(A) GROUNDS FOR RESCISSION OF GRADUATE FACULTY STATUS

As outlined in the Graduate Faculty Charter (Article IV, Section 3.c.), in “certain cases, such as those of professional incompetence, dishonesty, or failure to fulfill professional duties related to Graduate Faculty membership, a member may have some or all privileges on the Graduate Faculty rescinded prior to the end of the term of appointment. This is an exceptional event and should be undertaken only after other administrative remedies have failed.”

Possible grounds for rescission of a Graduate Faculty appointment include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. scholarly misconduct, as defined in the Faculty Handbook (section 3.26.1);
2. failure to fulfill a Graduate Faculty member’s academic and/or graduate mentoring responsibilities (academic responsibility is defined in Faculty Handbook section 3.2.2 and in the introductory section of this policy document);
3. failure to adhere to Graduate College policies or University policies relating to graduate education.

(B) INITIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

When reasons arise to question an individual’s Graduate Faculty status, the circumstances should be brought to the attention of the appropriate administrative officer(s) (i.e., Chair or Director of the unit, Graduate Liaison, Academic Dean, or Graduate Dean) who shall ordinarily investigate the matter to include, among other things, meeting with the Graduate Faculty member in person to discuss the matter, unless reasonably prevented from doing so. If after investigation, the administrative officer determines the conduct warrants rescission of Graduate Faculty status, he/she shall convey the matter and a recommendation to the Graduate Dean. However, if he/she determines the conduct does not warrant a change in Graduate Faculty status, then the matter may be resolved by mutual consent.

(C) DECISION BY THE GRADUATE DEAN

Following the initial administrative review, the Graduate Dean will conduct a thorough review of the matter, including the Graduate Faculty member’s conduct, pertinent Graduate College and University policies, and the unit’s published criteria for Graduate Faculty membership. During this investigation, the Graduate Dean may conduct additional interviews and seek additional documentation.

If at any point the Graduate Dean discovers possible violations of law or other university policies, the Graduate Dean will refer the matter to the appropriate officials.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the Graduate Dean will issue a report of the decision to the Graduate Faculty member, Chair or Director of the unit, Graduate Liaison, Academic Dean, and Provost. If the decision is not to rescind Graduate Faculty privileges, then the matter will be considered resolved. If the decision is to rescind some or all privileges of Graduate Faculty membership, then the changes in privileges will be implemented immediately. Privileges that have been rescinded through this process cannot be reinstated by an academic unit without approval of the Graduate Dean.

(D) APPEALS

The Graduate Dean’s decision may be appealed by any of the parties involved through the University of Oklahoma-Norman Campus Procedure for Appeal of Graduate Faculty Status.